

Amend claim 4 as follows:

4. (Once Amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein said period of time is ranging from 15 minutes to 24 hours.

Amend claim 5 as follows:

5. (Once Amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein said temperature is maintained at 100°C for 1 hour.

Amend claim 10 as follows:

10. (Once Amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein the analyzed samples are arranged in increasing order of concentration of cocaine or other alkaloids.

Amend claim 11 as follows:

11. (Once Amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein the samples are subjected to confirmation analyses with standard techniques such as GC or GC/MS.

Amend claim 12 as follows:

12. (Once Amended) Process according to claim 2, wherein each hair sample is made of about 50mg to 300mg of finely divided and/or powdered hair.

Amend claim 14 as follows:

14. (Once Amended) Diagnostic kit for carrying out the process according to claim 1, comprising a liquid reagent with constant concentration of hydroxyl groups suitable for extracting cocaine and other alkaloids and transforming cocaine into benzoylecgonine, and a conventional screening kit for the determination of said metabolite in urine samples.